

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /051 W

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R 271050Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4839

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMSUMACTHAI BANGKOK TH

UNCLAS BANGKOK 11693

USIA PASS IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, MILI, TH

SUBJ: U.S. TROOPS IN THAILAND

1. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF
EXCERPT FROM PRESS CONFERENCE BY PRIME MINISTER SENI PRAMOJ
APRIL 27.

2. BEGIN EXCERPT

REPORTER: THERE IS A LOT OF TALK ON THE ISSUE CONCERNING
AMERICAN TROOPS. AFTER YOU HAVE MADE YOUR STATEMENT OF POLICY,
WILL YOU HAVE AMERICAN TROOPS DEFINITELY WITHDRAWN?

SENI: REGARDING THE 4,500 SERVICEMEN...I BELIEVE THAT THERE
IS NO PROBLEM CONCERNING THE WITHDRAWAL OF COMBAT TROOPS.

REPORTER: THEY ARE TECHNICIANS.

SENI: THOSE TECHNICIANS...IN OUR POLICY, WE STATE
DEFINITELY 1) NO BASES CAN REMAIN HERE, AND 2) NO COMBAT TROOPS
CAN REMAIN HERE. REGARDING THOSE TECHNICIANS, THE FORMER
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GOVERNMENT DECIDED THAT THEY COULD REMAIN IN ORDER TO MAKE
PREPARATIONS FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL WITHIN FOUR MONTHS.

THIS DECISION WE WILL TURN OVER TO FOREIGN MINISTER PICHAI FOR STUDY AGAIN. BUT SHOULD THERE BE ANYTHING ON WHICH FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE HELD, IN OUR INTERESTS AND NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF ANYBODY ELSE, THEN WAYS WILL BE FOUND. THAT IS ALL I CAN SAY.

REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST BE THE SIDE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE, BECAUSE IT CONCERNS OUR INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY?

SENI: YES, THAT IS CORRECT.

REPORTER: WILL WE REVIEW THIS MATTER AGAIN?

SENI: YES, BECAUSE WE DO NOT KNOW IT IN SUFFICIENT DETAIL YET. PLEASE GIVE US TIME. END EXCERPT
WHITEHOUSE

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